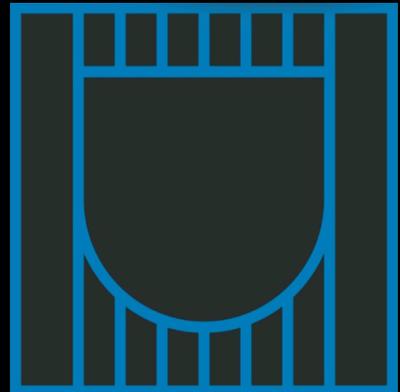


# THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

Modern Day Resource To Raise Incredible Kids

Questions  
& Answers  
for Our Hears  
& Minds





## Welcome to The New City Catechism Curriculum!

Parents today can feel ill-equipped when it comes to training their children theologically and nurturing their spiritual growth. Its ok if you feel this way! Many of us do. It is why we are excited to equip you with this incredible tool!

The New City Catechism Curriculum is designed to help your children grow to be theologically sound, confident, virtuous, and courageous followers of Christ. It consists of fifty-two lessons, one for each week of the year. Each lesson corresponds to one of the questions taught in The New City Catechism book.



## So What Is a Catechism?

A catechism is a collection of biblical doctrines, assembled into a question-and-answer format. The term comes from the New Testament word *katecheo*, which simply means “to teach or instruct.” This biblically derived process has proven hugely influential at critical points in the history of the church. We believe the church needs this ancient practice more than ever to equip Christ’s people to stand fast in the face of an ever-changing, often hostile culture.



## What Is This Curriculum Designed to Do?

### Catechize Children

Children are constantly learning. Their inquiring minds soak up information at a spectacular rate. They are trying to make sense of a complex and ever-changing world, seeking to acquire the skills to survive—and even thrive—in life. As they learn, a framework of understanding is established in their minds. This is called a worldview. All children and adults observe and interact with the world through their personal worldview. It is a thrilling and great responsibility to raise children and shape their understanding of the world, how it works, and their unique purpose in it. To catechize children is to give them a coherent and extensive system of thought that equips them to confidently interpret the world and their experiences in the world through a biblical framework. It also nurtures in children a love for and understanding of the essential doctrines for the Christian faith. To catechize children is to lay deep and strong biblical foundations for a lifetime of faith.



## Memorization

Memorization is an essential element of this curriculum. Many children's programs concentrate on practices such as Bible Study, prayer, fellowship and evangelism and at times can be superficial when it comes to doctrine. In contrast, this catechism will take students through the Apostle's Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer—a balance of biblical theology, practical ethics, and spiritual experience. Also the catechetical discipline of memorization drives concepts deeper in the heart and naturally holds students more accountable to master the material than do typical discipleship courses. Helping your children to learn the questions and answers of the catechism and the corresponding Scriptures is also a communal experience that will benefit both parents and children.



## Develop Virtue

The New City Catechism Curriculum is designed to help children not only learn sound doctrine but also to learn how to respond to it and live it out in their lives. Each lesson in The New City Catechism has a Virtue Vision covering one of ten Christian virtues that connects in some way with the catechism question. The virtues are *Awe, Forgiveness, Gratitude, Honesty, Hope, Humility, Joy, Love, Perseverance, and Trust.*

**We hope and pray that you and your child will enjoy this journey to knowing God and loving him more!**

The emphasis and intention of The New City Catechism Curriculum is to shape and affect the hearts of the children who engage with each lesson, with the hope that the catechism will contribute greatly to the nurture of godly, mature, and virtuous young men and women. This is definitely not about behavior modification, but rather helping children to respond with keen heart awareness to God's Word as they encounter it in and through the catechism and curriculum. The curriculum seeks to develop in children a mature Christian character, shaped by Scripture, that will be countercultural and striking in our world. By cultivating the capacities for character in both the heart and mind, this curriculum prepares children to love God and others.

# WEEK 1

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

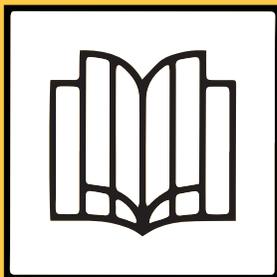
### Scripture:

*Romans 14:7-8*

For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

### Prayer:

Christ Our Hope, in life and in death, we cast ourselves on your merciful, fatherly care. You love us because we are your own. We have no good apart from you, and we could ask for no greater gift than to belong to you. Amen.



## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

What is our only hope in life and death?

### Answer (Memorize):

That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Is the purpose of life to be successful and earn lots of money? Why or why not?
2. Is the purpose of life to be happy? Why or why not?
3. Is the purpose of life to be make a positive impact on the world? Why or why not?
4. What does it mean to belong to the Lord? Is it a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
5. Do you think it's easy to live for God? Why or why not?
6. What might keep you from living for God?
7. How might remembering what Jesus did on the cross might motivate you to live for God?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Forgiveness

When God adopted us into his family, we received forgiveness through Jesus. We belong to God and enjoy all the privileges of being in his family. While it may be easy to accept forgiveness, it can be hard to give forgiveness. But once we become a part of God's family, we should want to imitate our Father. God showed sinners great mercy when he sent Jesus to die on the cross. God's children must be quick to forgive because we have been forgiven.

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Lay out two large pieces of paper. On the top of one of the papers write "My Family" and on the other write "God's Family." Answer the following questions

1. Identify and list the things that are great about belonging to your family.
2. What would happen if another child were adopted into your family? What benefits would they receive?
3. Identify and list the great things about being part of God's family. Everybody is born into a human family (even though some of these families are less than ideal), but not everybody is born into God's family. God brings people into his family and makes them His children through adoption! Adoption into God's family allows people to have certain hope and that adoption happens after people have realized that they are sinful and turn to Jesus to say they are sorry and ask for His forgiveness. Being adopted into God's family means that we get all the great things that come with being part of the family. We trust God in life and death, knowing that He is with us and that He alone is where our hope is found

# WEEK 2

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

### Scripture:

*Psalm 86:8-10, 15*

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God...

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

### Prayer:

Our Creator and Sustainer, everything holds together in you. The smallest creature is known to you, and the mightiest army is at your command. You rule with justice. Help us to trust your goodness in all that you will. Amen.

## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

What is God?

### Answer (Memorize):

God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice, and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Is the God of the Bible actually interested in me?
2. Why does God not speak to us directly?
3. Can we actually believe that God is who he says he is?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Awe

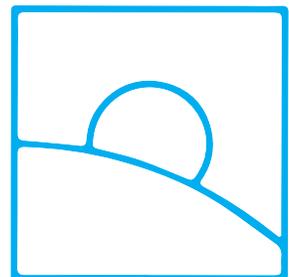
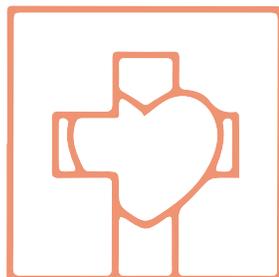
Provide each child with a piece of paper, an envelope, and some markers. Encourage them to be creative in the design and layout of their letter. Ask the children to place their letters in the envelope and to seal the envelope. Tell the children to write their name and address on their envelope.

Explain to the children that to be filled with awe is to be amazed and filled with wonder. Ask the children to write a letter to themselves and to describe the ways that the lesson filled them with awe as they learned more about who God is and what he is like. Sometime during the week mail the letters to the children; this will once again cause them to be filled with awe as they reflect on their great God.

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Give everyone a piece of paper and some markers. Fold the paper in half to make it look like a book.

- What great deeds have you done that the world should know about? Consider what you might include in your own autobiography. Design the front cover of your autobiography, and write a brief summary that might be printed on the back cover of their autobiography.
- What would you like people to know about who you are?



# WEEK 3

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

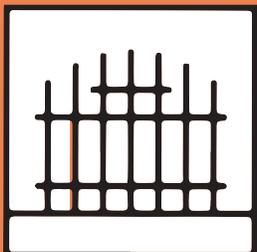
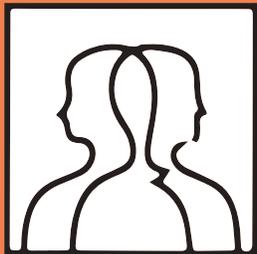
### Scripture:

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

### Prayer:

Father, Son, and Spirit, you are beyond our understanding. Thank you for bringing us into your love, a love that existed before the world in your three perfect persons. Amen.



## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

How many persons are there in God?

### Answer (Memorize):

There are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Why do we believe this doctrine if the word “Trinity” is not used in the Bible?
2. This is really hard to understand. If I do not understand it, am I not a Christian?
3. What does it mean that persons of the Trinity related eternally as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: AWE

Each person will have 3 sheets of paper. Write the letter “A” at the top of one page, “W” on the top of the other, and “E” at the top of the last page. On each paper write descriptive words of God or how you feel toward God. When you are writing on the letter “A”, you must use words beginning with A; on letter “W”, use words beginning with “W”; and on letter “E”, use words beginning with “E”.

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Read the following true/false quiz aloud.

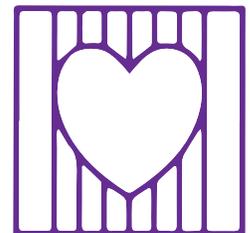
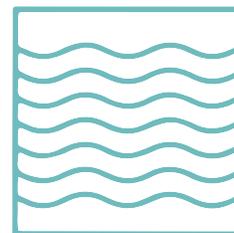
If the statement is true, run to the right side of the room.

Run to the left side if you think the statement is false.

1. The word Trinity is found in the Bible. (False)
2. There is one God. (True)
3. The Father is fully God. (True)
4. God has always existed as three persons. (True)
5. God the Son only came into existence when Mary became pregnant. (False)
6. The Son is not the Father. (True)
7. The persons of the Trinity each have distinct roles. (True)
8. God the Father died on the cross for our sin. (False)

### Answer Key

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. False
6. True
7. True
8. False



# WEEK 4

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

### Scripture:

*Genesis 1:27*

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

### Prayer:

Maker of All, let us not lose sight that we, and every human being you have made, are created in your image. Never let us doubt this about ourselves. Never let us doubt this about any other man or woman, for to do so denies you the glory that is due to your name. Your likeness glimpsed in us testifies that we belong to you, body and soul. Amen

## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

How and why did God create us?

### Answer (Memorize):

God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Can we really believe that human beings were created by God?
2. How did God actually make people?

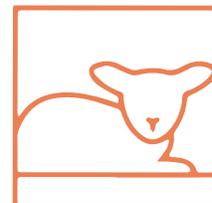
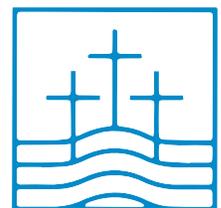
## THURSDAY • Virtue: Love

- God created us out of love, and to be his image-bearers in the world we should be loving too.
- Consider what godly love looks like. Does it mean loving only the people you like or who like you?
- Does it mean loving only people who act like you and look like you?
- Or does loving the way God loves mean something much more?
- Discuss what it would look like if you were always concerned to show God's love to siblings and parents at home and to classmates and friends at school.
- Who is one person in your life that you want to love better?

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Create a rap, a song or a hand-clapping rhyme for this week's question and answer.

Set it to a catchy beat so that you will not forget it.



# WEEK 5

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

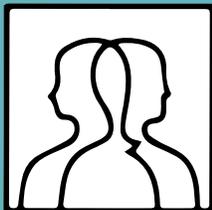
### Scripture:

*Genesis 1:31*

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

### Prayer:

Lord Who Spoke the World into Existence, we marvel at your creation, even though it has been corrupted. Your beauty is revealed in the splendor of the stars. Your might is shown forth in the strength of a hurricane. Your order is displayed in the laws of mathematics. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord for the works of his hands! Amen.



## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

What else did God create?

### Answer (Memorize):

God created all things by his powerful Word, and all his creation was very good; everything flourished under his loving rule.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

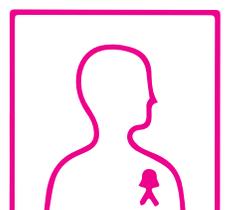
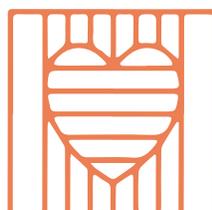
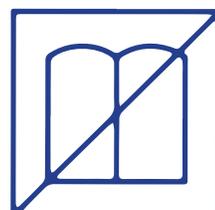
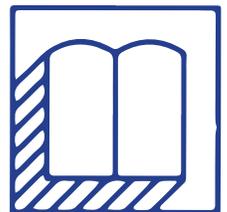
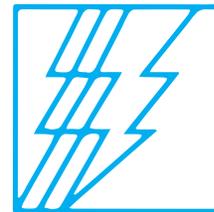
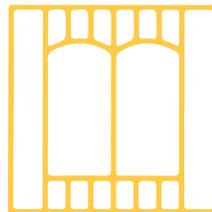
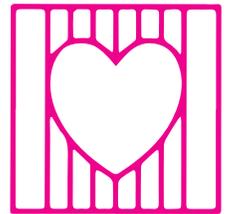
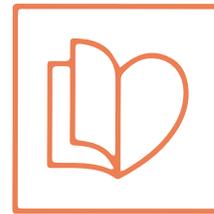
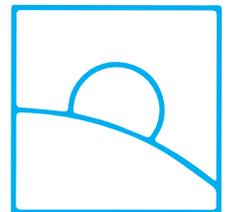
1. How was Jesus present at the creation of the world?
2. What about the theory of evolution?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Joy

On a piece of paper, draw as many things in particular that give you joy as you reflect on God's creation. Once you have filled your paper share why these things bring you so much joy.

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Borrow or buy some Legos, or Play-Doh (construction paper can be substituted to make a collage) and build a representation of one of the days of creation. Do not tell each other what day you chose. See if they can guess what day you have created.



# WEEK 6

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

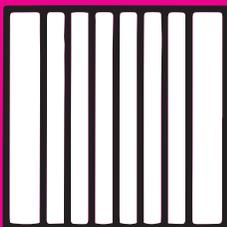
## MONDAY

### Scripture:

*Deuteronomy 11:1*  
You shall therefore love the Lord your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.

### Prayer:

Gracious Lord, we want to fully know and enjoy you. Open our eyes to see you as you are that we might trust you and long with all we are to keep your commands. Whether through small kindnesses or great courage, may each act of obedience bring you glory. Amen.



## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

How can we glorify God?

### Answer (Memorize):

We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Is it wrong to like celebrities or sports stars?
2. I don't fully understand what it means to glorify God?
3. Why does God need to be glorified?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Trust

Cut up paper so that each person has a slip to write on.

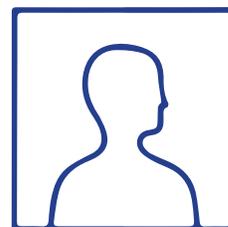
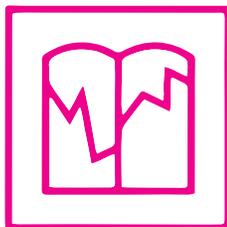
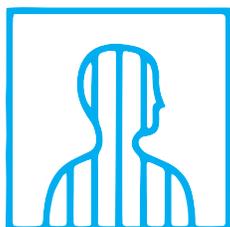
We have been talking about how obedience glorifies God. We usually think of obedience as not doing bad things, but it also includes doing the good things God commands. God has commanded us to trust him. Read Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding."

Think of things in your life that worry you. When you have thought of something, write it on your slip of paper if you want to trust that worry to God. Then fold it up and put it in your jar.

Once all of the slips are put in the jar, notice that you now have no worry slips. This illustrates that when you give your worries to God, he has them, and you don't have them anymore. That's what trust in God looks like!

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Think of three things you love about God, and three ways you struggle to obey him. Remember that God loves to answer our prayers and wants to help us obey. Write a personal prayer asking God to help you love and trust him each day so that you might glorify him through an obedient life. Hang your prayer in a prominent place around your house (i.e. on the refrigerator or on your bedroom door). Look at your prayer and pray it every time you see it this weekend.



# WEEK 7

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

### Scripture:

*Matthew 22: 37-40*

And [Jesus] said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

### Prayer:

Great Law-Giver, you have spoken a perfect law, and you deserve perfect obedience. Let us not merely think that your law requires outward submission; it demands the full assent of our minds and our hearts. Who is equal to such a task? We confess that we fall far short of keeping your law. Amen.

## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

What does the law of God require?

### Answer (Memorize):

Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Does keeping God's law please God?
2. I'd like to keep God's law perfectly. How do I do that?
3. What happens if I keep breaking the law?

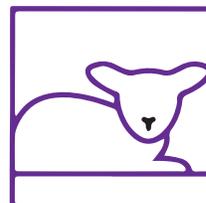
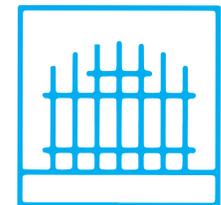
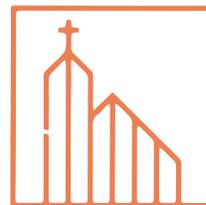
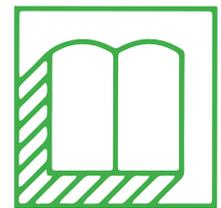
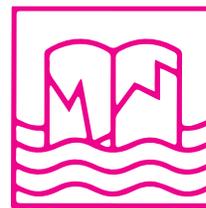
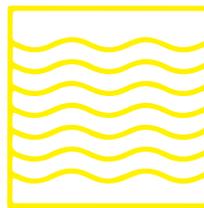
## THURSDAY • Virtue: Gratitude

Post a message online that declares your gratitude to God for who he is and what he's done. You may need to rewrite your message a couple of times before you send it.

Then post a message of gratitude to another person.

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Make a paper heart, and write "upward love" on one side and "sideways love" on the other side. Now, consider how you can love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. Write down some of these thoughts on the "upward love" side. How can you love the people that God has placed you among? Write down some ideas on the "sideways love" side. Share some of your thoughts with each other.



# WEEK 8

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

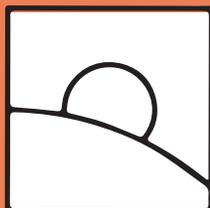
### Scripture:

*Exodus 20:3*

You shall have no other gods before me.

### Prayer:

Holy God, you showed your love to your people by giving them your commands. May we always give thanks for your law. You have not left us ignorant of how to walk in the way of righteousness. Help us to glorify you by obeying your Ten Commandments. Amen.



## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

What is the law of God stated in the Ten Commandments?

### Answer (Memorize):

You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below—you shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

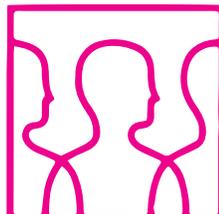
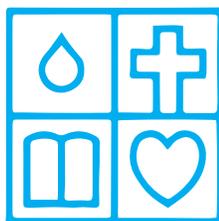
1. Are the Ten Commandments relevant for today?
2. Did God actually think people could keep the commandments?
3. Why did God give the Ten Commandments to the people in such an unusual way?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Gratitude

Cover with paper an area of wall that can become a “gratitude wall.” At the top write, “I am grateful that God is...” Write on the wall the things that you have learned about God’s character from Exodus 20. Reflect on how wonderful it is that God chose to reveal himself in this way.

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Play Ten Commandment Charades. Take turns pantomiming one of the commandments while the other children guess the commandment.



# WEEK 9

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

### Scripture:

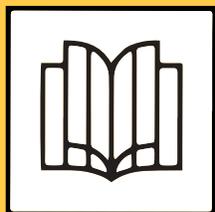
*Deuteronomy*

6:13-14

It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you.

### Prayer:

One and Only God, your name is above all names, and we come before you in reverence and fear. Keep us true to your commandments. Reveal to us any false gods in our lives. Let us worship you alone in spirit and truth. Amen.



## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

What does God require in the first, second, and third commandments?

### Answer (Memorize):

First, that we know and trust God as the only true and living God. Second, that we avoid all idolatry and do not worship God improperly. Third, that we treat God's name with fear and reverence, honoring also his Word and works.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Why would anyone worship a statue?
2. What does it mean to misuse God's name?
3. Is jealousy a good emotion?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Trust

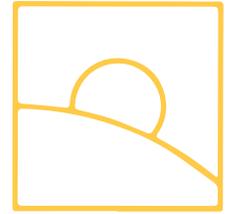
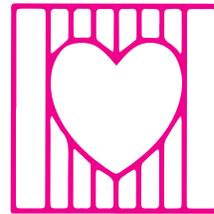
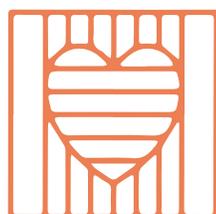
Everyone puts their trust in someone or something at some time. Children trust their parents to care for them. Airplane passengers trust that the pilot will be able to fly the plane. Zoo visitors trust that the fences will keep them safe from man-eating tigers! Can you think of other examples of how people exercise trust?

It is important to carefully consider who we put our trust in. The God of the Bible continually shows his people that he is trustworthy. Do you think that false idols—such as money, power, or even family—are trustworthy.

What does it personally mean to trust in the God of the Ten Commandments?

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Print out each word of the first three commandments on individual sheets and put each word in an envelope. Mix them up well. Take turns taking them out of the envelope and putting the words of each commandment in the correct order.



# WEEK 10

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

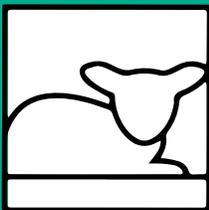
### Scripture:

*Leviticus 19:3*

Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God.

### Prayer:

Life-Giving Father, we will flourish only when we walk in your ways. You have made us, and you tell us we need rest. Keep us from justifying ourselves through ceaseless work. Give us humility to honor our parents. May we always live by your commands rather than by our own instincts. Amen.



## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

What does God require in the fourth and fifth commandments?

### Answer (Memorize):

Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in public and private worship of God, rest from routine employment, serve the Lord and others, and so anticipate the eternal Sabbath. Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother, submitting to their godly discipline and direction.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. What happens if my sports team plays on a Sunday, and I can't make it to church?
2. Are people commanded to honor their parents if they're bad parents?
3. What about honoring non-Christian parents?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Joy

God designed his commandments to be a source of joy for his people, rather than rules to be kept!

Proverbs 15:13 says, "A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed." It is impossible to show a frown and smile at the same time. Try to do both. It is impossible!

Act out a short skit in which someone obeys the fourth commandment without joy, then replay the same skit to show what it would look like to obey the fourth commandment with joy. If there is time, do the same thing for the fifth commandment. Notice that in every skit the commandment was obeyed, but which kind of obedience do you prefer?

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Print out a piece of paper with the word LOVE printed vertically on it in large letters. Consider what it might mean to honor your parents in love. For example:

- L listen to them.
- O obey them.
- V volunteer to serve and help them.
- E eat my food with a cheerful attitude.

Write ideas on your paper of how you can honor your parents in love, both in the things you do as well as the things you choose not to do.

# WEEK 11

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

### Scripture:

*Romans 13:9*

For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

### Prayer:

Faithful Shepherd of Our Souls, you created us to live in love and fellowship on the earth, but we fail in that again and again. May your love rule every relationship so that we walk in purity, putting away lust, covetousness, and greed, for your name’s sake. Amen.

## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

What does God require in the sixth, seventh, and eighth commandments?

### Answer (Memorize):

Sixth, that we do not hurt, or hate, or be hostile to our neighbor, but be patient and peaceful, pursuing even our enemies with love. Seventh, that we abstain from sexual immorality and live purely and faithfully, whether in marriage or in single life, avoiding all impure actions, looks, words, thoughts, or desires, and whatever might lead to them. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else, nor withhold any good from someone we might benefit.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. How do I know if I have broken these commandments in my heart?
2. Surely God can’t expect us to love everyone, can he?
3. What should I do if I have stolen something?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Honesty

Define honesty in your own words. Lies can be told by making up false information or failing to share relevant information that a situation calls for. Can you think of any examples of this?

Being honest doesn’t just mean telling the truth. It means living in an honest way and keeping the law.

After all, if you broke the law, you might be tempted to be dishonest to cover up your transgressions. Honesty is about speaking and acting truthfully.

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Each person will begin by making a large paper heart. Fold it in half down the middle. Once it is folded, no one can see what is inside. This is true of our hearts as well—no one else can see inside, except for God. Write a prayer on the inside of the construction paper heart. Confess to God any thoughts you have had that are hateful or mean. Ask God to forgive those sins because Jesus paid for them on the cross. When you are finished writing your prayer of confession, tear the paper heart into tiny pieces over the trash can. This reminds us that if we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive us. No one will ever read the sins you wrote on your hearts, and we can thank God that he forgives us even for the sins that only he knows about.

# WEEK 12

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

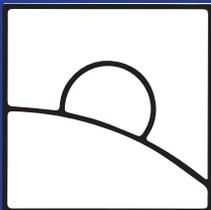
### Scripture:

*James 2:8*

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

### Prayer:

Lord of All Truth, help us to reflect your goodness in word and deed. You know all things. Nothing is hidden from you. You give good gifts and withhold no good thing from your children. May your truth be on our lips and contentment be in our hearts. Amen.



## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

### Answer (Memorize):

Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive, but speak the truth in love. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone or resenting what God has given them or us.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Isn't it sometimes necessary to lie?
2. By not having the same stuff that the other children have, I feel left out and lonely. Isn't that why I covet things?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Honesty

On a piece of paper, write a story about honesty and how lying got someone into trouble. Read your stories, and discuss what each character could have done instead of lying. It is often much easier to tell a lie than to tell the truth. Think of some situations in which people might be tempted to lie.

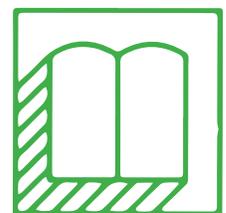
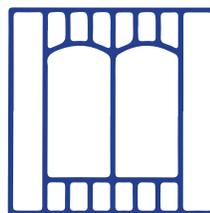
## FRIDAY • Activity:

Find some toy catalogs, magazines, or advertisements for toys. Cut out pictures from the catalogs of all things that you might be tempted to covet. (Alternatively, you could draw or write down the names of things that you might covet.) Show each other what you have cut out. Imagine that you can only have one item that you cut out. Glue it to a piece of paper. Share why you chose your item. Do you like the other person's item better than yours?

Now, imagine if you could choose a second item, what would it be?

After you have chosen a second picture, take the old picture off and glue the new one on in its place. This demonstrates that getting the thing we covet doesn't really satisfy us. We will always want more!

Pray that God will free us from desiring things that other people have, and ask God to grant us contentment in him.



# WEEK 13

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

### Scripture:

*Romans 3:10-12*

None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.

### Prayer:

Holy God, left to our own devices, we transgress your law at every turn. We have no defense, but must plead guilty before your throne of judgment. Your law condemns us and cuts through our pretensions to righteousness, convincing us that we desperately need a Savior. Amen.

## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?

### Answer (Memorize):

Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word, and deed.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Why did God allow sin to enter the world?
2. What difference does it make if people actually keep the law?
3. I'm not sure I am a Christian. Will I face God's wrath?

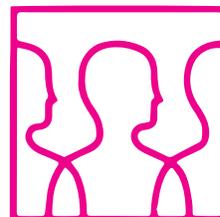
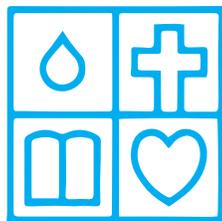
## THURSDAY • Virtue: Forgiveness

Gather some smooth stones and paint. It would be very bad news for us that we cannot perfectly keep God's law if we did not know that God forgives those who repent. But because the punishment that we deserved was taken by Christ, we can be completely forgiven. How might that make a difference when someone hurts our feelings or sins against us? Does the fact that God has forgiven us make you want to forgive others?

Choose a small smooth stone. What can you draw on the stone to symbolize forgiveness (a cross would be a good choice, but you may have another idea). Decorate your stone. This is meant to be a forgiveness stone—a reminder that since God has forgiven us (upward forgiveness), we should forgive other people (sideways forgiveness). When someone sins against us, the forgiveness stone will be a reminder that we forgive because God forgave us.

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Draw a line down the middle of a paper. Write "Before" on one side and "After" on the other. Take turns writing things on either side of the line. Everything on the Before side should be things that were true before the fall of Adam. Everything on the After side should be what is true of our world now.



# WEEK 14

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

### Scripture:

*Romans 5:12*  
Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

### Prayer:

Merciful Lord, we are corrupt in our very natures. We are sons and daughters of the first Adam who desire what you forbid. Give us a new nature through new birth in Christ, the second Adam, that we might be able to keep your law in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

Did God create us unable to keep his law?

### Answer (Memorize):

No, but because of the disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, all of creation is fallen; we are all born in sin and guilt, corrupt in our nature and unable to keep God's law.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Why did God allow Adam and Eve to sin?
2. By stopping Adam and Eve from sinning, could God have prevented Jesus' death?
3. Isn't it unfair for us to inherit sin from Adam?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Forgiveness

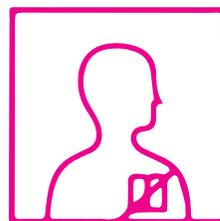
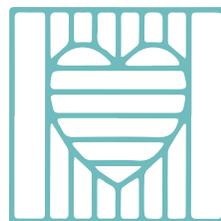
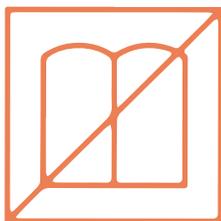
Our inability to keep the law (which we inherited from Adam), reminds us of our need for forgiveness. Why should we be eager to forgive others? Find the forgiveness stones you made last week. On a sheet of paper draw a line down the middle. On one side write "Me" and on the other side, write "Them".

Put the forgiveness stone on the "Me" side of the paper and share about a mistake that you made that required you to be forgiven by others. Now place the forgiveness stone on the "Them" side of the paper and think about a time when you needed to forgive someone this week. Is there someone you still need to forgive? We should forgive others because God forgives us.

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Gather large sheets of paper to draw and write on with markers. Fill the sheets of paper with as many images as you can recall about the creation of the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. You can go back and read the creation account to inform your designs. Reflect on what life may have been like at the beginning of creation.

After you have finished your design, paint SIN in big black letters across the picture. It's a shame to ruin lovely artwork, but you are demonstrating how significantly sin affects God's world.



# WEEK 15

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

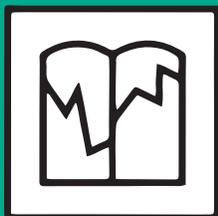
## MONDAY

### Scripture:

*Romans 3:20*  
For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

### Prayer:

Giver of All Good Gifts, your law reveals to us what is just. Though it condemns us, through it we know how great is your holiness and how perfect is your Son. Though we fall short, may we always give you thanks and praise for your law and rejoice that we have a Savior. Amen.



## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?

### Answer (Memorize):

That we may know the holy nature and will of God, and the sinful nature and disobedience of our hearts; and thus our need of a Savior. The law also teaches and exhorts us to live a life worthy of our Savior.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. How do I know if the law is helping me to understand my heart?
2. Why do non-Christians describe the Bible as all rules and regulations and God as a grinch?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Awe

Awe God's law shows us his holiness. It also shows us how short of that holiness we fall.

Cover a portion of a wall with butcher paper or large sheets of paper side by side. Write AWE in big letters across the top of the paper. Read the Ten Commandments and consider what the Ten Commandments teach about God's character. Write as many attributes as you can to fill the wall of AWE.

Think of a song that is appropriate to sing when we stand in awe of God. Sing as many songs together as your time allows.

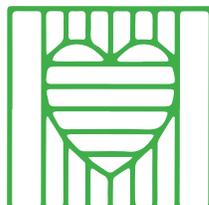
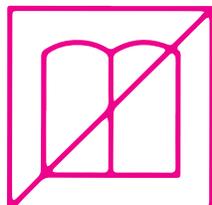
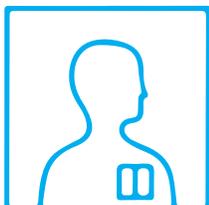
## FRIDAY • Activity:

What is a mirror used for? Imagine that you are explaining the concept of a mirror to someone who has never seen one before. How would you do it?

Stand in front of a large mirror together. Write "THE LAW" across the mirror with a dry erase marker.

First, stand far away from the mirror. What do you see? Now take a closer look. Investigate your reflections in the mirror. What new things did you discover about yourself?

The law of God functions like a mirror for the Christian. As Christians look into the law we see what we are really like. However, the law does not show us our outward appearance as a mirror does. It shows us what our hearts look like. What has our study of the Ten Commandments revealed about your heart so far?



# WEEK 16

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

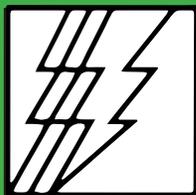
### Scripture:

1 John 3:4

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

### Prayer:

Lord of the Universe, all your ways are good. We pursue the way of death when we go our own way. Help us to see sin as the poison it is. Let your law, rather than the spirit of lawlessness, shape our minds and our lives. Amen.



## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

What is sin?

### Answer (Memorize):

Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, rebelling against him by living without reference to him, not being or doing what he requires in his law—resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Aren't some sins worse than others?
2. What about those who do not ask Jesus for forgiveness?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Forgiveness

Consider what being forgiven means to you. Begin by focusing initially on your personal experience of forgiveness in your home or school setting. Consider the enormity of the forgiveness that Christians have because of Jesus's death on the cross the perfect display of God's incredible mercy and grace. Consider how being forgiven might affect your relationships with other people, friends, siblings, and even enemies. Having experienced such monumental forgiveness in Jesus, could you possibly have a right to withhold forgiveness from anyone? What is the most painful thing that you have had to forgive someone of? What things could someone do to you that would be hard for you to forgive? Why?

You are going to be statues portraying three different postures related to forgiveness. Read each pose aloud, then each person has a couple of minutes to go into their position and freeze. Then when the next pose is read each person has a couple of minutes to go into the next position.

The three statue poses are:

- A person in need of forgiveness
- A person receiving forgiveness
- A person forgiving others

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Set up a jumping game by placing two lines of tape on the floor. The world record for the long jump is 29 feet. Make the lines 29 feet apart (or as close to it as possible). Write Romans 3:23 on the tape that you will be trying to jump to. Stand behind one line attempt to jump to the other. Mark each jump. Who had the longest jump? Did anyone make it to the other mark? Does it matter if you had the longest jump if you did not make the mark? Romans 3:23 (which is written on the tape) declares that everybody has sinned. We have missed the mark. Everyone has fallen short. We are not measured against others. We are measured against God's standards. Every single person fails to make the grade. So when we consider what sin is, we must realize that it affects each and every person who has lived, is living or will live on earth.

# WEEK 17

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

### Scripture:

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. . . . They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator.

...

### Prayer:

Creator God, forgive us for worshiping the things you have made. No person or thing should be our hope or our trust. You alone are self-existent and all-sufficient. May you be our all in all. Amen.



## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

What is idolatry?

### Answer (Memorize):

Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Have you mentioned all of the things that can become idols?
2. What does finding joy and satisfaction in God mean?
3. Does God punish idolatry?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Joy

Read Romans 15:13: “May the God of hope fill with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Discuss all the ways and places that the world suggests we will find joy and happiness. Identify where true joy comes from and who alone gives joy as you read Romans 15:13 again. What difference in your life does knowing that joy comes from God and that he will fill you with joy.

- Will external, created things provide joy?
- Is joy dependent on circumstances?  
In other words, can you choose to be joyful and reflect on God’s goodness during difficult times?
- Can all Christians experience joy?

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Gather a selection of things that people are tempted to turn into idols. This activity will work well with a selection of miniature toy things. For example, you could use a toy car or some clothes made for a doll. Find things to represent:

- |               |           |              |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| • Money       | • Food    | • Friends    |
| • Celebrities | • Fashion | • Technology |
| • Adventure   | • House   | • Travel     |
| • Education   | • Sports  | • Romance    |
| • Cars        |           |              |

Place the representative items on a tray or table under a cover. Uncover the items on the table for thirty seconds. Then cover the items again.

Now write down as many things as you can remember in two minutes.

Uncover the items again, and see how many items you remembered.

Why did you remember some things and forget others?

These items represent some of the things that people idolize (or put before God) in the world today. People who idolize these things would never forget them because they love them and mistakenly trust them to bring lasting happiness. Things that are loved so much can never be far from a person’s mind. None of these things are wrong in and of themselves. They become a problem when they take the place of God in our lives.

# WEEK 18

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

### Scripture:

*Ephesians 5:5-6*

For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

### Prayer:

Righteous Lord, if we think that we are good, we deceive ourselves. We deserve your wrath. We have broken your commands, and we have not loved you with our whole hearts, minds, and strength. We can only plead the righteousness of Christ and ask you to let our punishment fall on him. Amen.

## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished?

### Answer (Memorize):

No, every sin is against the sovereignty, holiness, and goodness of God, and against his righteous law, and God is righteously angry with our sins and will punish them in his just judgment both in this life and in the life to come.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. When will the judgment happen?
2. What will the punishment be?
3. What will happen to those who aren't Christian?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Awe

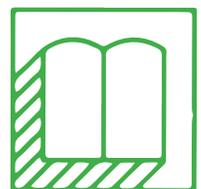
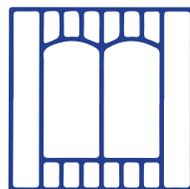
Reflect on the character of God as revealed through this lesson. Consider the enormity of the punishment that is owed for even one sin against a perfectly holy God.

Find a check from an old checkbook (you can also print a sample check from the internet or draw one). On the "Date" line, write out the day you were born. On the pay to line write God. On the "dollars" line write "one quadrillion dollars". In the pay box, write 1,000,000,000,000,000 ("1" with 15 zeros). On the "For" line, write "all of [Your Name]'s sins". Who should sign this check? Do you know someone who can pay the price of your sins? If you do, sign his name in red on the signature line.

When we reflect on how much our sin costs we begin to understand how wonderful it is to have our debt paid in full by Christ Jesus.

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Using markers write down three or four crimes that would get someone arrested and taken to court. Then write down what you believe would be a suitable punishment if the accused were found guilty. Next, write down three or four things that you or your peers might get into trouble for. Write down an appropriate punishment for each. Is there a connection between the sort of punishments you might receive for disobeying your parents and those that people receive for major crimes? It is only when we understand the certainty and necessity of punishment for sin that we can understand how wonderful it is to escape the punishment we were owed.



# WEEK 19

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

### Scripture:

*Isaiah 53:10-11*

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

### Prayer:

O Reconciling One, thank you for making a way for us. You have been perfect, both in justice and in mercy. We accept the salvation we do not deserve. We come before you in the name of Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, trusting in his merits rather than our own. Amen.

## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

### Answer (Memorize):

Yes, to satisfy his justice, God himself, out of mere mercy, reconciles us to himself and delivers us from sin and from the punishment for sin, by a Redeemer.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus have to die?
2. How did Isaiah know about Jesus' life and death?

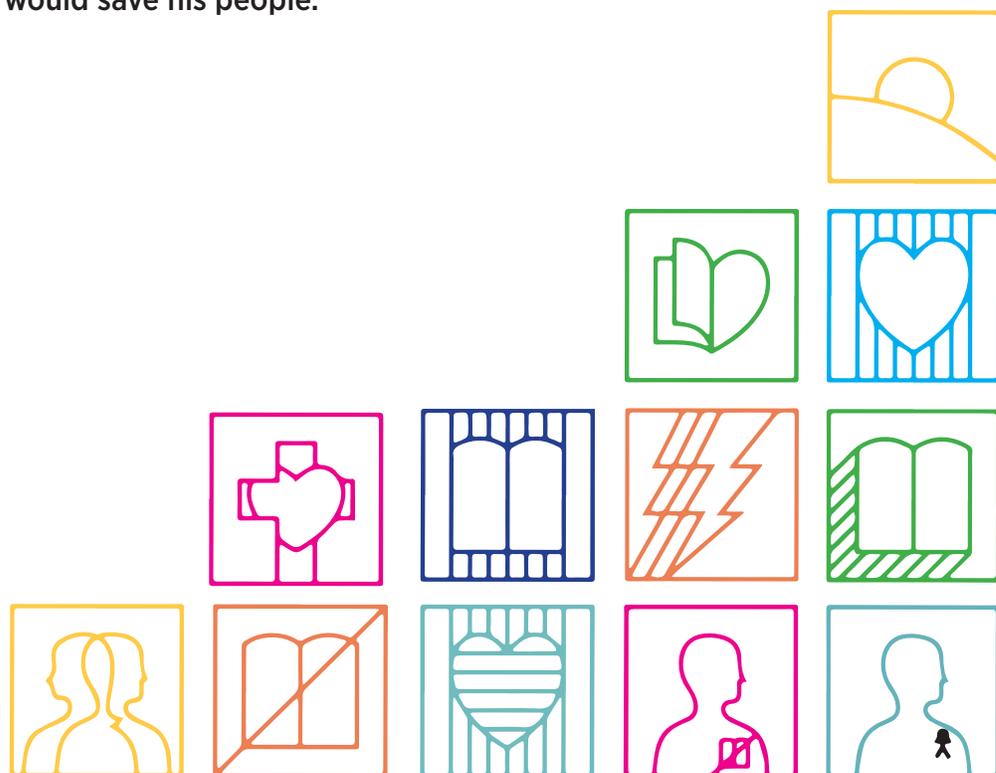
## THURSDAY • Virtue: Gratitude

You will need blank greeting cards (construction paper folded in half will do) and markers for this activity.

Thinking about Jesus taking our death sentence for us should make us thankful. Design and decorate a card of gratitude to Jesus for being your Redeemer. Display the cards around your home. Consider how your gratitude to God might flow over into all areas of your life.

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Use your phone to record a short TV news report that tells the story of the Gospel. Creatively depict the story of a Servant who came to earth to redeem and save. Include the significance of prophecies foretelling his coming and highlight the fact that God always had a plan of how he would save his people.



# WEEK 20

## SUNDAY

Read the chapter

## MONDAY

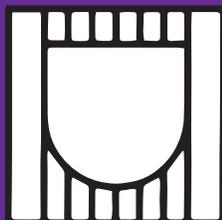
### Scripture:

*1 Timothy 2:5*

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

### Prayer:

Precious Redeemer, before the world began, you loved us. You gave up your glory to bear our shame. You glorified your Father by obeying him all the way to the cross. You deserve our praise, thanks, and worship. We have no hope but in you. Amen.



## TUESDAY • Key Question (Memorize):

Who is the Redeemer?

### Answer (Memorize):

The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, in whom God became man and bore the penalty for sin himself.

## WEDNESDAY • Discussion Questions:

1. If everyone is born sinful, how can Jesus have lived a perfect life?
2. Is Jesus the Redeemer for everyone in the world?
3. Why did God choose to make Jesus, his own son, to suffer?

## THURSDAY • Virtue: Humility

Discuss how you would respond to the following scenarios:

1. You have won the school spelling bee! The final round was down to you and your best friend, who happens to be coming over to your house after school. When the two of you get in the car, your dad asks how the spelling bee went.
2. A new family comes to your church. You overhear someone say they are living in a homeless shelter. One of the kids comes to your Sunday school class. You notice that her clothes have stains on them, and they have a smell.
3. Your baseball team is up against the best team in the league. It's a close game, but your team loses because the left fielder fails to catch a fly ball. Afterward, some of your teammates are giving him a hard time.
4. Your daily chore assignment is to make your bed and take out the trash. You have done both of these things. Your mother has a headache and needs to lie down, so she asks you to load the dishwasher. This is not one of your chores.

## FRIDAY • Activity:

Each person has a few minutes to find their favorite possession (or something that represents it, like keys, etc) and bring it back. Explain what the possession is and why it is precious to you. Now place the items in a bathroom and close the door. Tape a sign on the door with the word "Satan". Imagine that your prized possessions have been stolen by the enemy. You cannot call the police. You must pay a ransom to get it back. How much are you willing to pay to get it back? How much money do you have? Each person should write their price on a piece of paper. Then ask them if they would pay one dollar more than what they wrote down? Five dollars more? Ten more? What is your ultimate limit? Why would you stop there?

The price that you are willing to pay for a ransom indicates how much you truly value this possession. Redemption is costly! Remember that God gave up everything to ransom us. He gave up his most prized possession, his son, Jesus. That shows how much he values and loves us.

